Concord Reports Calls For 2-Months

C. S. Perdieu of Lynchburg, center above, received shutgun from James Cassidy of the Concord Rescue Squad. Perdieu held the winning donation ticket that he had received from Carolyn Cassidy, shown on the left above.

On December 9th, the Concord Rescue Squad enjoyed a Christmas Dinner with their wives and children, at which time the Concord Rescue Squad was presented with a check for $500.00 from the Ladies Auxiliary.

With the banquet, the annual fund drive for the Squad ended and members wish to thank everyone who contributed.

On December 8th, the drawing was held for the 12 gauge shotgun which the Rescue Squad gave away. Mr. C. S. Perdieu of Lynchburg was the "Lucky Winner"!

During the months of October and November, the Squad was very busy with emergency calls. Members spent 177 man-hours and traveled a total of 1,681 miles in answer to 69 calls.

A break-down of the calls is as follows: general illness, 22; transports, 12; Cuts, 6; strokes, 3; auto accidents, 3; gunshot wounds, 2; assist other squads, 2; abdominal pains, 2; bee stings, 2; reaction to medication, 2; insulin reaction, 2; and one call each for breathing difficulty, falls, farm tractor accident, stand-by, mashed toe, shock, mashed finger, broken wrist and nose bleed.

RED HOLLY BERRIES

A legend relates that on the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns, and the red berries are the drops of its blood that froze on the branches.

The Legend of Christmas Tinsel

According to an old legend, a poor peasant woman, with many children, decorated a Christmas tree with such humble trimmings as she was able to gather, mostly berries and nuts and such odds and ends as she had managed to save up during the year. She labored far into the night trying to make her tree as beautiful as she could.

While she was asleep, spiders came and crawled from branch to branch trailing their lacy webs behind them. To reward the woman for her devotion, The Christ Child blessed the tree and all the spider webs were turned into gleaming silver.

Greetings of the Holy Season

May the many blessings of Christmas fill your hearts with peace and happiness.

Gaines' Jewelers

Main Street Appomattox, Va.

Cost of Living Increase Approved For Veterans

A cost of living increase in VA benefits for nearly 2.7 million disabled veterans and survivors of deceased veterans is authorized by a law signed by the President on Dec. 6, said Donald E. Johnson, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. The law is effective January 1, 1974, and the increase will be reflected in checks received around Feb. 1.

The increase will average 10 per cent for 915,000 wartime veterans and 859,000 widows on VA pension rolls, and 69,000 parents drawing dependency and indemnity compensation. Increase dpension payments also will go to 842,000 children of veterans. (In Virginia this will mean increases for 25,705 veterans, 23,132 widows, 1,562 parents and 18,696 children.)

Pensions are paid by the VA on the baisis of need to veterans permanently and totally disabled from nonservice connected causes and to widows and children of veterans who died of nonservice - connected disabilities. DIC payments are made to widows, unmarried children under 18, and certain parents of veterans and servicemen who died of service - connected disabilities. The new law increased DIC rates only for parents, VA noted.

Among other highlights of the new law:

•Maximum pension payable to veterans without dependents increased from $30 to $50 monthly, if hospitalized more than two months.

•Pension for veterans with no dependents and incomes of not more than $300 annually increased from $130 to $143 monthly.

• Pension for veterans with one dependent and incomes of not more than $500 annually increased from $140 to $154 monthly.

• Widows with no dependents and incomes of not more than $300 annually increased from $87 to $96 monthly.

• Death pension rates for children increased from $42 monthly plus $17 monthly for each additional child, to $44 monthly plus $18 monthly for each additional child.

• Authorized lump sum payment of $25,000 to certain veterans discharged from the Army as a result of an incident in Brownsville, Texas, Aug. 13, 1906, or $10,000 to their unremarried widows.

Additional information on pension benefits is available at the Roanoke VA Regional Office, or from representatives of local veterans organizations.

W. H. Highfill, Jr., Director

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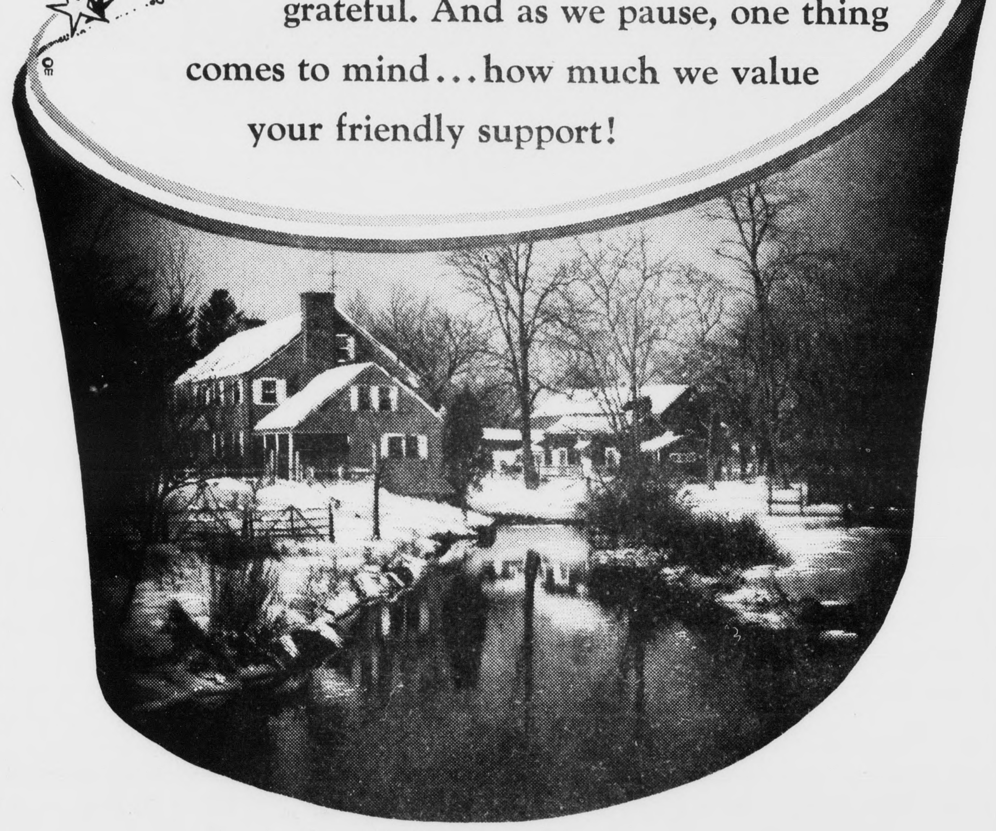
Merry Christmas

Christmas tranquility holds a message for all of us. In the midst of this season we take time to appreciate and be grateful. And as we pause, one thing comes to mind...how much we value your friendly support!



H. W., Conner, Postmaster

John T. Hall | Raymond. T. Jamerson | Virginia G. Doss | Ora S. McCoy | Wayne Lee | Bill Sperry | S. A. Lawson | Bill Williamson | Tibbie Allen

1974 Will Be Good Year For Virginians

Despite some adjustments caused by the fuel situation, 1974 will be a good year for Virginians with per capita income approaching $5,000, according to Richard S. Gillis, Executive Director of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.

The continued general prosperity through 1974 will be due to the unique balance of the State's economy. Throughout 1973, employment continued to grow in the State's basic-type industries. Basic type industries generate slightly more than an equal number of jobs in service-type industries. The overall result will be employment of almost 2 million Virginians, with an unemployment rate of about 2.2%. Of the basic-type industries including manufacturing, port activity, and transportation, only small segments will be adversely affected should the energy situation continue or worsen.

For example, to maintain their competitive positions, market-oriented manufacturing enterprises must continue their long term plans and projects. According to the State's Division of Industrial Development of the State Chamber's Department of Industrial Development, the 1974 outlook for industrial development continues to be good. Employment in manufacturing, which increased by over 20,000 jobs in 1972 and by some 12,000 in 1973, should continue to grow by 10,000 to 15,000 range in 1974 and contribute to our overall economic base.

Increased foreign investment, supplementing domestic investment in Virginia, provides assurance of continued sound industrial growth.

Should fuel prices sky-rocket or severe rationing be imposed, Virginia's billion dollar travel industry will be adversely affected to some degree. The State Chamber notes Gillis, that Virginia can maintain her important travel related economic base by directing promotion activities to the large population centers within a few hundred miles of the Old Dominion and using group tours to reach the State's many travel attractions. Virginia is uniquely situated within a gas tank away from 35 million Americans. This will be tremendously important to our travel industry should the energy situation worsen.

Capital intensive transportation and public utilities basic-type industries continue to be a source of new jobs for Virginians. Despite capital improvements that would mean less employment in a no-growth or slow-growth economy, the transportation and public utilities industries actually added more than 4,000 employees in 1973. Growth now underway indicates at least as much additional employment in 1974.

Due to Virginia's great ports, numerous military installations and facilities, and the State's proximity to Washington, government employment is a major factor in Virginia's economy. Not counting Federal employment in the Northern Virginia area, which is a part of the Washington Standard Statistical Metropolitan Area, amounting to some 50,000 federal employees, there are now more than 324,000 government employees in Virginia. Government employees tend to have relatively high incomes which in turn provide jobs in service type industries. Government employment in 1973 increased at about the same rate as in 1972 - some 10,000. This increase is a part of a long term trend that shows no indication of a decrease.

Another basic type industry - agriculture - that has been declining for decades, appears to have bottomed out and is increasing the State's employment and income. The State's 107,000 farm employees produce a net of $385 million in income. Agriculture is, of course, a part of a larger and growing industry - agri-business. Increasing demand for Virginia agricultural products means higher income and better jobs in 1974.

The developments in the basic-type industries of Virginia will mean even more progress in service-type industries such as contract construction, trade, finance, insurance and real estate and miscellaneous services.

In summary, according to the Virginia State Chamber's Executive Director, despite some adjustments due to the fuel situation, 1974 will be a year of continued economic growth and general prosperity for Virginia. Present and projected developments insure that incomes will continue to grow and that the State's unemployment level will remain well below that of the national average.

Well-Loved Carols Ring Out Everywhere

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"

"It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old."

"Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright."

"Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant."

Throughout Christendom, the words of these well-loved carols are familiar even to little children, and they'll be heard this Christmas wherever carolers get together.

"Joy to the World" was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), English hymnist.

Watts, who is known as the creator of the modern hymn, wrote nearly 600 hymns. Many of these still appear in Protestant hymnals, says the Encyclopedia Americana.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" is the work of Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister in Massachusetts, more than a century ago.

Perhaps the most famous of Christmas carols, "Silent Night" was first sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, to guitar music.

Mice in the bellows had silenced the organ of a tiny Austrian church. Father Joseph Mohr met the challenge by writing "Silent Night." His organist composed a melody for guitar.

Father Mohr's inspiration—aside from the mice—was the vast, still beauty of the snowy mountains around the village.

"Oh come, all ye faithful" is translated from the Latin, "Adeste Fidelis," and its exact beginnings are shrouded in the mists of time.

Historians say it may have been written by Saint Bonaventure, in the 13th century.

IT'S LEGAL

Alabama was the first U.S. state to make Christmas a legal holiday, in 1836.

Classics Provide Yuletide Melodies

In this century, hymns and carols of the Nativity have been composed by Peter Warlock ("Bethlehem Down") and Gustav Holst ("Mid-Winter")—among others.

Often, hymns and carols have been set to the music of classic composers.

One example is, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," by Nahum Tate. Music for this came from Handel's opera, "Siroe," as adapted by Richard Storrs Willis.

JINGLE, BELLS

Most-sung American secular carol is "Jingle, Bells," written by James Pierpont of Massachusetts in the 1850's.

READY FOR YULE

"Christmas tree" is the actual name of a plant that grows in New Zealand.

ALL ABOUT SOYBEANS It is surprising to learn about the numerous uses of soy protein. The various qualities of soy protein make it a very versatile ingredient in food products. For example, one use is the addition of soy protein to fresh bakery products. These proteins absorb two to three times their own weight in water. This ability to retain moisture helps bakers retain freshness in their products.

Look around your grocery store and read the ingredient panels on the items you purchase. You'll see soy flour in refrigerated doughs-this keeps fresh flavor and texture during storage, also soybean oil, soy protein in pancake flour and many other uses.

Recently with the concern over getting the most for each food dollar consumers have purchased ground beef with soybean used as a meat extender. Extenders consist of processed soybean meal in the form of flour and grits. For a soybean product to substitute partly or wholly for meat it must go through an additional step-texturizing-this gives it strength to withstand cooking and processing. Texturized vegetable protein, known as TVP has been added to some ground beef to give consumers more protein at a lower cost.

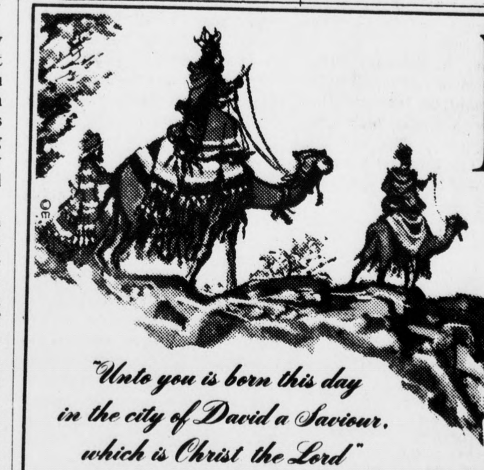
Area stores are now displaying a new form of TVP. A package form of TVP with seasonings is now being sold. This product can be added to ground beef to make "Chili", hamburger," spaghetti" and "meat loaf." After the product is rehydrated it has an appearance similar to ground beef plus gives the consumer twice as much protein, from the volume of ground beef and seasoning.

The Donkey, A Family Favorite

The donkey, or ass, was the most valuable animal to the biblical family, and also the most economical, since he ate only a quarter as much barley as a horse. The most menial of animals, he was famous for his stamina and sure-footedness. Humble as his status was, he would bear the cameleer on his back, and lead the long, stately strings of camels across the desert.

Even poor families, like Joseph's of Nazareth, could afford one donkey, which they trimmed with blue beads and red wool to show their pride of ownership. This simple beast was their mode of transport into Bethlehem and later for the Flight into Egypt.

PEACE



"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"

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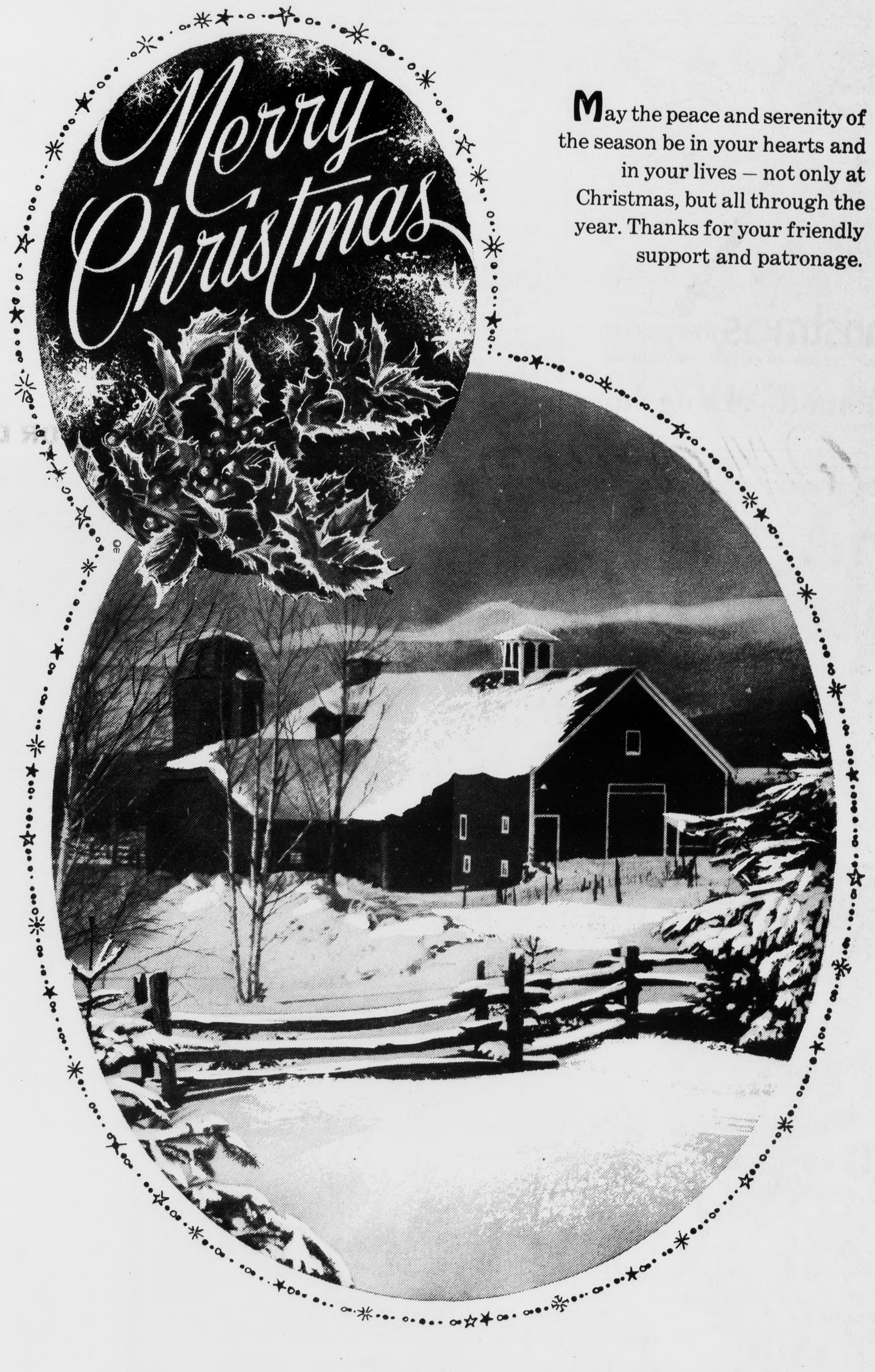

May the peace and serenity of the season be in your hearts and in your lives — not only at Christmas, but all through the year. Thanks for your friendly support and patronage.

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